THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Steps taken by Government to help the Shipping Companies to fight recession in shipping industry include reschedulement of overdue of shipping companies to Shipping Development Fund Committee and to commercial banks, under the SAFAUNS scheme, from time to time. Besides measures of cargo support like instructions to public sector undertakings/Government Departments to negotiate C & F exports and F.O.B. imports have been issued. Certain concessions to importers for using Indian Vessels in the matter of import licence and to exporters for using Indian vessels in the matter of replenishment licence have also been extended.

Scheme to Provide Medical Allowance to the Weaker Section

934. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any Central scheme to provide for some allowances or reimbursement of medical expenses, directly or indirectly through local bodies, to the weaker sections of society to achieve Health for All by 2000 A.D.; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

Extension of Period for Registration of Unqualified Pharmacists

935. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to further extend the period of registration of those persons who are not graduates/diploma holders to practise pharmacy under the Pharmacy Act, 1948; and

(b) if so, what are the considerations for this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of seats in Air Flights

936. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of air line seats available in various sectors of the country and particularly in the Delhi-Srinagar sector;

(b) what was the occupancy rate in Delhi-Srinagar Sector on Boeings and Airbuses, separately, for the period April-June, 1986; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet this ever-increasing rush of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The occupancy rate on the Delhi-Srinagar flights during the last

three months (viz. April to June, 1986) has been as under:—

IC-427 (Airbus)(Delhi-Srinagar)	95.7%
IC-428 (Airbus) (Srinagar-Delhi)	94%
*IC-437 (Boeing/Airbus) (Delhi-Srinagar)	96%
*IC-438 (Boeing-Airbus) (Srinagar-Delhi)	99%

(c) Besides the above flights Indian Airlines is also operating the following services:

IC-423/424 (B-737) on sectors Delhi/Amritsar/Srinagar and return —5 days a week.

IC-423/424 (B-737) on sectors Delhi/Amritsar/Srinagar and return —twice a week.

IC-421/422 (B-737) on sectors Delhi/Chandigarh/Jammu/Srinagar and return—5 days a week.

IC-425/426 (B-737) on sectors Delhi/Jammu/Srinagar and return —once a week.

In order to clear the rush, Indian Airlines also operates additional flights on Delhi/Srinagar sector as and when necessary.

Old Coaches in Superfast Trains

937. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of coaches in the Fast/Superfast Express Trains are old and in a dilapidated condition.

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether Government propose to disconnect such coaches from the Fast/Superfast Express Trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No Sir. The condition of the coaches in service on Fast/Superfast Express trains is reported to be generally satisfactory. The condition of some of the 1st class coaches, however, needs to be improved and instructions have been issued for their rehabilitation on a programmed basis. Coaches are unfortunately, at times, subjected to vandalism/miscreant activities and, sometimes, the shortage of fittings outnumber the available supply and in such cases the coach has to go in the same condition till the spares required for replacement become available and can be fitted.

(c) Does not arise.

Expansion of Nagercoil Railway Station

938. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand the Nagercoil Railway Station in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and also the amount expected to be spent thereon; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

*This flight was introduced with effect from 1st June, 1986. The flight was being operated with Airbus aircraft on four times weekly basis and on the remaining three days by B-737 aircraft. With effect from 18th June, 1986, the flight is being operated with Airbus aircraft on all days of the week.